

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/527,399

Attorney Docket No. Q86775

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 2, 3A, 3B and 3C have been corrected to include the designation "PRIOR ART."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been examined in the current application. By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claim 1.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority, as well as the receipt of the certified foreign priority document.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 18, 2005.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings for various informalities. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, as well as any intervening claim.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

§102 Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi et al. (U.S. 6,603,086, hereafter "Kawaguchi"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites, in part, "a first leaf spring having conductivity" and "a second leaf spring having conductivity." Kawaguchi teaches that the domed projection is made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is not a conductive material. Kawaguchi further requires that electrodes be attached to the back side of the domed projection in order for a connection to be made with the electric circuit body located on the base layer, whereas the first spring leaf and second spring leaf do not need additional electrodes to connect to the wiring patterns on the base in claimed invention.

Additionally, claim 1, recites, in part, "when an external force acting toward the reference surface is applied to the second leaf spring, an edge of the central portion comes into contact with the reference surface." The Examiner characterizes the designation 3 in FIG. 1 of Kawaguchi, the spacer sheets, as being the equivalent of the reference surface of claim 1. Kawaguchi thus cannot teach that the edge of the central portion comes into contact with the reference surface, as it would be virtually impossible for the edges of domed convex portion to come into contact with the spacer sheets. The Examiner's characterization of designation 3, also means that Kawaguchi cannot teach that an external force acting toward the reference surface is applied to the second spring leaf. The reference surface "3" of Kawaguchi is located in a position that would require a horizontal force to be applied to the domed projection and domed convex portion of the Kawaguchi switch. Given the structure of the switch, a horizontal force would not cause the domed projection to come into contact with the reference surface.


Therefore, because Kawaguchi fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over the applied art. Claims 2, 3 and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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